

Tribute Resolution in Honor of Elyse Wasch

Whereas, Elyse Wasch recently left the staff of Senator Jack Reed after 25 years of service, during which she worked tirelessly behind the scenes as an advocate for libraries, to join the Washington DC lobbying firm Penn Hill Group;

Whereas, Elyse spent 8 years as the Senator’s Senior Education Policy Advisor and more than 16 years as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, and while advancing to positions of ever-increasing levels of responsibility in Senator Reed’s office, she always kept libraries as part of her legislative portfolio;

Whereas, Elyse worked with advocates from the American Library Association (ALA) and Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) to regularly increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA);

Whereas, in 2018 she worked with Senator Reed during the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act to increase the minimum state grant for the Grants to States program from \$640,000 to \$1 million, which will provide a substantial increase in LSTA funding for small or less populous states;

Whereas, during the pandemic she worked with ALA and COSLA to secure funding for libraries in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA);

Whereas, Elyse used her broad experience and deep knowledge of policy and libraries to build bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for not only library legislation but also other legislation that would benefit from the inclusion of libraries;

Whereas, Elyse helped ensure libraries were included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and that school libraries were included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA);

Whereas, Elyse helped craft the Build America’s Libraries Act which proposed much needed federal funding for library construction as part of the Infrastructure Innovation and Jobs Act; and

Whereas, for her contributions to libraries across the nation and in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) recently recognized Elyse Wasch the “Library Champion” Award. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

Recognizes Elyse Wasch for her lengthy career in Senator Jack Reed's office and her work in support of and advocating for libraries on Capitol Hill.

Moved by the ALA Committee on Legislation

Endorsed by:

Jack Martin, RI Chapter Councilor

Catherine Damiani, Councilor-at-Large

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